



*Library*

Borough of South Molton

---

# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
and Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1958.



2011

Borough of South Molton

---

# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
and Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1958.



113 East Street,  
South Molton,  
May, 1959.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and  
Councillors of the Borough of South Molton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report  
on the Health and Sanitation Administration of the Borough  
for the year 1958.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.),

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30114378>

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the  
**Borough of South Molton**  
for the year ending December 31st, 1958.

---

---

**LIST OF STAFF**

---

---

The Staff of the Public Health Department  
consists of:

Part-time Officers:—

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon)

Medical Officer of Health.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

A. J. C. NEX, M.A.P.H.I.

G. E. MOGFORD, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

Miss M. LOCK

Mrs. ELWORTHY

Clerks.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA

Area (in acres) ... ..	5,910
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate) ...	3,100
Inhabited Houses ... ..	1,022
Rateable Value ... ..	£37,522
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£150

### VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate ...	16	11	27
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
			<hr/> 27 <hr/>

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population—8.70—(9.48 corrected)

	Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate ...	—	—	—
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
			<hr/> — <hr/>

STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 (live and still births)— Nil

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS— ... .. 27

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ... ..	—	1	1
Illegitimate ... ..	0	0	0
			<hr/> 1 <hr/>

INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 live births—total 37.03

    ,,       ,,       ,,       ,,       —legitimate 37.03

    ,,       ,,       ,,       ,,       —illegitimate Nil

Neo Natal       ,,       ,,       ,,       (first four weeks) 37.03

Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births ... 0%

MATERNAL DEATHS (including abortion) ... .. Nil

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ... Nil



## LOCAL DEATHS OVER 65 YEARS

65—69	...	6	85—89	...	6
70—74	...	10	90—94	...	3
75—79	...	7	95 plus	...	1
80—84	...	12	Total	...	45

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths From Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	0

## CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1958

	Males	Females
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	—	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	3
Diabetes	1	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	1	6
Coronary Disease, Angina	1	1
Other Heart Disease	8	4
Other Circulatory Disease	1	3
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	2	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	—	6
Homicide and Operations of War	1	—
	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 36

Death Rate per 1,000 population—18.06—(13.00 corrected)

## CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### NOTIFIED IN 1958

(in age groups excluding Tuberculosis)

NIL

## NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1958

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
Age years	M	F	Age years	M	F
25	—	1		—	—

# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

---

## HOSPITALS

### 1. Tuberculosis

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough of Barnstaple, has 28 beds.

### 2. Maternity Cases

There is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

Three beds are also set aside for maternity cases in the South Molton and District Cottage Hospital.

The General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

### 3. Isolation of Infectious Diseases

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Kingsley Hospital, which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford, and is well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases; there are 20 beds available in cubicles for Infectious Cases.

### 4. Small Pox

The Small Pox Hospital, to which cases of Small Pox will be sent, is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter 67158, and this is the same number for the ambulance.

### 5. General

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in the Borough of South Molton, serves this area. There are 9 beds for general and maternity cases. The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, also serves the area and provides Specialists' Services.

In South Molton there are also chronic sick patients at Beech House, but no further admissions are being made.

### 6. Clinics and Treatment Centres

CHEST CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Below is a table giving days and times of attendance.

Tuesday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		
Thursday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	A.P. Refills
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		
Friday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		

V.D. CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Glossop Annexe. Times and days are as below for the sessions.

FEMALES— Monday 4 p.m. Thursday 4.30 p.m.

MALES—Monday 5.15 p.m. Thursday 5.45 p.m.

## 7. Professional Nursing in the Homes

There is one District Nurse in the area who also acts as a Midwife.

## 8. Laboratory Facilities

The main Laboratory is situated at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out. The service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. There is a Blood Bank at this Laboratory.

## 9. Immunization Against Diphtheria—Vaccination— Vaccination Against Poliomyelitis

These figures, for the whole County, will be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer.

## 10. Ambulance Services

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme, an ambulance station has been established at South Molton. The districts served are South Molton Borough



and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, by the doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary.

**11. Acute Poliomyelitis**

No cases occurred during the year.

**12. Food Poisoning**

No cases occurred during the year.

**13. Home Help Services**

There are Home Helps operating in the South Molton Borough and Rural District and the scheme is run by the Devon County Council. During the year help was rendered in 2 cases.

Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor or District Nurse will be considered for a Home Help. The Home Helps do any work in the house normally done by the housewife.

I desire to thank the Town Clerk and Public Health Inspectors for the help they have given me.

F. J. H. MARTIN.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR TO BOROUGH OF SOUTH MOLTON

For the year ending 31st December, 1958.

1 EAST STREET,  
SOUTH MOLTON.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present my Annual Report relating to work carried out during 1958.

During the year 3,271 visits and inspections were made including:—

## PUBLIC HEALTH—

Byelaws	...	...	...	...	34
Drains inspected and tested	...	...	...	...	19
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	9
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	92
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	233
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	411
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	21
Disinfestations/Disinfections	...	...	...	...	2
General	...	...	...	...	29

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS ... .. 65

FOOD AND DRUGS—Meat Inspection ... .. 226  
                          General ... .. 22

FACTORIES—With Power ... .. 7  
                  Without Power ... .. 2

## HOUSING—

Slum Clearance/Rent Acts	...	...	...	...	12
Council Houses Supervision, etc.	...	...	...	...	905
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	12

HIGHWAYS ... .. 564

LANDS AND PARKS ... .. 148

CORPORATE ESTATES, TOWN HALL, ETC. ... .. 126

MARKETS ... .. 134

INTERVIEWS—Owners, Builders & Miscellaneous 139

MEETINGS ... .. 59

## WATER SUPPLY

The Public mains supply has been maintained satisfactorily during the year. Chlorination by drip feed has been in operation and a pleasing result of this is that each chlorinated sample submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination has been placed in Class I. of the Ministry's recommended Standards for Public Mains Supplies.

Two unchlorinated samples submitted were unsatisfactory.

Regular leak detection has been carried out and no restriction on the use of water has been necessary.

A length of main in Mill Street has been renewed.

The three Candy Filters at Westland Bridge have received regular attention.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Your sewage disposal works at Mole Bridge have been maintained satisfactorily. The second stage of the Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme was commenced and good progress made. When the present scheme is completed the whole of the town sewage will be treated at Mole Bridge Works and the outfalls at Cooks Cross and West End Terrace will no longer be in use. In the meantime every effort has been made to maintain the outfalls at Cooks Cross and West End Terrace in as satisfactory a condition as possible.

## FOOD AND DRUGS

Visits were paid to premises in which food is handled and sold and in general the conditions found were satisfactory. No prosecutions were made under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

## FOODS CONDEMNED

The following foods have been voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:—

		lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Meat	... ..	20	0
„ Fruit	... ..	7	0
„ Vegetables	... ..		14
„ Cheese Spread	... ..		3
„ Chicken Spread	... ..		14
„ Marzipan	... ..		8
„ Margarine	... ..	228	0
Total	... ..	257	7



# CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	102	—	—	163	425	Nil
Number inspected	102	—	—	163	425	Nil
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	1.96 %	Nil	Nil	0.61 %	1.64 %	Nil
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	41	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.94 %	Nil	Nil	Nil	9.64 %	Nil
<b>Cysticercosis</b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The number of licensed Slaughterhouses remained at two and regular killing and inspection has taken place in each. It will be seen from the preceding table that 100% meat inspection was carried out, involving 226 visits.

It was necessary to condemn 3 cwts. 2 qrs. 9 lbs. of carcase meat and 2 qrs. 32 lbs. of offal.

## ICE CREAM

Inspections of premises where ice cream is sold have been made. With one exception all the retailers sell pre-packed ice cream.

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

No action was necessary under the above-mentioned Acts during the year. Form 572 has been completed.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PEST ACT

The Council have continued to have the part-time services of the Rural District Rodent Operator, who works under the general supervision of the Department. Regular baiting of the Council's properties, including the refuse tip and sewage disposal works, have been carried out. The Operator has dealt efficiently with infestations found as the result of regular survey and complaints received.

L. W. EVES

Chief Public Health Inspector.









